



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: February 29, 2016 – Workshop Meeting
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman G. Woodbury, Vice Chair Stevens, Clerk C. Woodbury, Member Pepe and Administrator Gaudette

At 6:08 p.m. Chairman Woodbury called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing – Class II Auto Dealer’s License Application of Tarik Elkorchi, 152 Main Street

Chairman Woodbury abstained. Vice-chair Stevens opened the hearing at 6:08 pm.

Mr. Elkorchi explained to the Board that he would like to obtain a Class II Dealers License to operate an office only at 152 Main Street where he operated the Kaboodles restaurant until recently, however he hopes to reopen the restaurant with a gluten free menu in the near future. At this time he is requesting to operate the Class II out of a separate office inside the building. No cars will be on the premises; it is strictly for Internet use only. He does not have plans to sell to the general public and will be purchasing cars for his personal use and for family members.

There were no comments from the public. The hearing was closed at 6:14 pm. All were in favor.

A motion to approve the Class II Auto Dealer’s License Application of Tarik Elkorchi, 152 Main Street for Internet Sales only (Pepe/Stevens) passed 3/0.

6:15 p.m. Public Hearing #2 - Comprehensive Roads Project **Joint Meeting with the Financial Management Planning Committee (FMPC)**

Chairman Woodbury opened the hearing at 6:15 pm. There were a large number of people in attendance, with sixty people signing in.

Mr. Gaudette presented a Power Point on a Comprehensive Road Improvements Plan. Members of the FMPC Rich Hebson, Tom Parker, and Paul McLaughlin were in attendance. Selectmen Pepe and Stevens are also members of that committee.

Mr. Gaudette noted that the goal of the FMPC is to develop long term financial and capital plans and obtain feedback from the public. At this time, they are revisiting the major backlog of roads to determine both short and long term improvements moving forward.

Bill Scarpati of Stantec was present to discuss the pavement management analysis. He noted that the life of pavement, known as the PCI score starts out with a score of 100 in “do nothing condition” and moves down to a score of “0” in “poor condition” and in need of base rehabilitation. Spencer has the lowest PCI of its comparison communities with an overall score of 51.

A survey conducted in the fall revealed many major roads are in need of rehab and resurfacing with \$34 million needed to restore the roadways, including drainage and bridges. Mr. Gaudette also presented two other scenarios: one for \$19 million and one for \$10 million both would require scaling back the number of roads to be repaired.

U & F Superintendent Steven Tyler reported that current active projects include Main Street TIP reconstruction with funding from State and Federal Aid and the use of Chapter 90 money to pay for the design. CDBG projects include Mechanic Street, which is nearly finished and Chestnut Street is next in line. Tree work and culvert replacement is currently taking place on Charlton Road in accordance with recommendations of the MassDOT Safety Audit. This places the Town in the best position to obtain State funding for the pavement portion of the road, however Chapter 90 is being used to fund the prep work. Repairs for N. Spencer Road are being proposed for the near future and include the bridge repair near the Abbey.

Administrator Gaudette explained that Chapter 90 funding is administered by MassDOT with Towns receiving reimbursement on approved expenses. Several major projects have also been funded by Chapter 90. He cited an MMA report which indicated a \$362 million statewide Chapter 90 funding gap, with Spencer's gap estimated at \$1.3 million annually. Funding the project with Chapter 90 and current revenue is not enough and some form of a Proposition 2 ½ Override is needed. He explained the 3 types of Overrides:

1. General Override - funds are earmarked for a stated purpose in the first year and years after can be spent on anything.
2. Stabilization Override – funds used for specific purpose in the first year and in subsequent years upon authorization.
3. Debt Exclusions – funds used only for specific purpose only until debt is retired.

A proposed tax rate increase was discussed using the three different funding scenarios.

Mr. Gaudette responded to several questions from the public including concern over having a tax increase for this project for residents living on private roads. Mr. Gaudette explained that every person in a community will not utilize every service equally, but as a community all come together to support the services. Other questions included the time of the proposed tax increase, the impacts on the tax bills, and the estimated start and completion date of the road improvements.

The hearing was closed at 9:22 pm and the meeting was adjourned. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

Comprehensive Roads Project Presentation #2
Class II Application of Tarik Elkorchi